



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	06-08-04	Interpretation #	04-011
Topic	Fire Alarms in Medical Office Buildings		
Code Section(s)	§ 3-2.4, NFPA 72 (1999) CBC (2001) 3505 Section 4-4.5,		
Requested by	Tom Yu HYA 4920 Freeport Blvd., Suite D Sacramento, CA 95822		

In a medical office building (Group B occupancy), a fire alarm system is typically not required by Section 1006.2.3 of the California Fire Code. Where a fire alarm system is voluntarily provided in this type of building:

- 1. Are fire alarm strobe devices required in all areas and/or rooms where a patient can occupy or be located?***
- 2. Are fire alarm strobes required in small exam rooms, small testing rooms, small laboratories, small patient consultation rooms, and minor procedure rooms of up to +/-200sf. (In this case, “small” means rooms of approximately 100 to 150sf.)***

Whether or not they are required by code, all fire alarm systems shall be installed in accordance with the applicable standards and regulations. When a fire alarm system is installed in a clinic or medical office building, visible notification appliances (strobes) shall be installed in any room where patients are left unattended and in any room where the public may have access.